

## Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AEC-11 SS-20 PM-07 ACDA-19

CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 RSC-01

SCEM-02 TRSE-00 NSF-04 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 SSO-00 DRC-01 /157 W  
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R 111704Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6023

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, TGEN, CA, ENRG

SUBJECT: URANIUM ENRICHMENT

DEPT FOR SCI

REF: OTTAWA 0008

SUMMARY: SEVERAL U.S. AND FRENCH JOURNALISTS INDICATED  
THAT FRENCH ARE NEGATIVE ON U.S.-EURODIF COOPERATION AND  
HAVE IN NO WAY LESSENED THEIR DETERMINATION TO PROCEED WITH  
EURODIF PROJECT. END SUMMARY.

1. PARIS CORRESPONDENT FOR U.S. DAILY TOLD SCIATT THAT AT  
PRESS LUNCHEON FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT REPLIED NEGATIVELY TO  
HIS QUESTION ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF U.S.-EURODIF COOPERATION.  
SOURCE SAID SUBSTANCE OF JOBERT'S REPLY WAS: (1) THERE WOULD  
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BE NO COOPERATION SINCE U.S. AND EURODIF ARE IN COMPETITION

AND (2) AT EC MEETING COPENHAGEN FRENCH WERE UPSET WITH GERMANS FOR NOT CONTRIBUTING TO EURODIF.

2. ANOTHER PARIS CORRESPONDENT (FOR U.S. TECHNICAL JOURNALS) QUOTED EURODIF DIRECTOR BASSE TO EFFECT THAT IT WAS NOW TOO LATE FOR SUBSTANTIAL COOPERATION WITH U.S. ADOPTION OF U.S. TECHNOLOGY FOR ANY MAJOR PART OF EURODIF PLANT WOULD DEMAND MODIFICATION TO OTHER PARTS, RESULTING IN PLANNING CHANGES AND MAJOR DELAYS. VIRTUALLY THE SAME LINE WAS HEARD FROM LE MONDE'S VICHNEY. SCIATT HAD CONTACTED BOTH TO ASK THEIR OPINION ON ARTICLE IN JANUARY ISSUE OF NUCLEAR ENGINEERING INTERNATIONAL (PUBLISHED IN K) WHICH REPORTED SOFTENING OF GOF COMMITMENT TO EURODIF. BOTH SAID REPORT WAS NONSENSE. NEITHER HAD SEEN ANY SIGN OF LOSS OF FRENCH INTEREST NOR HEARD ANY WORD OF IT IN PARIS PRESS CIRCLES. ON THE CONTRARY, THEY INDICATED FRENCH ARE PUSHING THEIR EURODIF PARTNERS TO GET PROJECT GOING.

3. ANOTHER RECENT CONFIRMATION OF FRENCH COMMITMENT TO EURODIF CAME IN LE FIGARO OF JANUARY 8 WHICH QUOTES CEA ADMINISTRATOR GIRAUD: "THE YEAR 1974, WHICH MARKS ALSO THE DEBUT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EURODIF PLANT, WILL CONFIRM THE ESSENTIAL IMPORTANCE OF THE URANIUM ENRICHMENT PROBLEM. IT WOULD BE ASTONISHING IF ONE OR PERHAPS SEVERAL OTHER INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS OF THEIR KIND DO NOT SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY. THEY ARE NECESSARY TO SATISFY GROWING WORLD NEEDS."

4. COMMENT: THE ABOVE AND OUR OWN ASSESSMENT ARGUE AGAINST OPINION OF CANADIAN OFFICIALS REPORTED REFTEL THAT EURODIF WOULD FOLD IN A COUPLE MONTHS. WE SUSPECT THAT FRENCH CONTACTS WITH CANADIANS ON BRINCO (REFTEL, PARA 1A) WERE EITHER FISHING EXPEDITIONS FOR INFO OR ATTEMPTS TO DISSUADE BRINCO MEMBERS FROM GOING AHEAD. THE FRENCH COULD CONCEIVABLY HAVE LONG RANGE PLANS TO LOCATE A SECOND DIFFUSION ENRICHMENT PLANT IN CANADA TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF INEXPENSIVE POWER AND ABUNDANT URANIUM ORE. HOWEVER, WE HAVE SEEN NO SIGN OF THIS. GIRAUD'S REMARKS (ABOVE PARA 3) MAY HAVE BEEN INTENDED TO HEAD OFF ANY CRITICISM OF EURODIF PROGRAM FOLLOWING DISCLOSURE THAT URENCO CONTRACTED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF TWO CENTRIFUGE ENRICHMENT PLANTS, IN ALMELO, NETHERLANDS, AND THE OTHER IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COPENHURST, UK, WITH CAPACITIES OF 200 TONS (ABOUT 200,000 SW) EACH IN 1977, INCREASING TO 2,000 TONS (ABOUT 2 MILLION SW) EACH IN 1980.

5. TO OTTAA: EMBASSY APPRECIATE CONTINUED INPUT ON CANADIAN REACTION TO FRENCH ENRICHMENT PLANS.  
STONE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** URANIUM, NUCLEAR ENERGY, PRESS COMMENTS, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 11 JAN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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